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SUNDAY
AUGUST 15, 1954

E. went off this morning to Talloires with Nicky, who is to be deposited at Geneva.

Tommy came for lunch, and afterwards we drew up several cables, one of which, COLED 18 NIACT, is a preliminary listing by each subject-heading of the major difficulties with the French proposals on EDC.

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Another telegram, COLED 19, reads as follows:

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 19. NIACT.

"RPTD INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON 153.
HICOG BONN 103.
AMEMBASSY ROME 45.
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 25.
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 31.
AMLEGATION LUXEMBOURG 23.

"As indicated in COLED 18, French proposals are unacceptable beyond our worst expectations. Development is in large part due to Parodi, Boris and Gros. Once 'little NATO' proposal was rejected by Mendès, this trio devoted their energies to making French suggestions for Brussels meeting as 'anti-EDC' as possible. In these endeavors they received great help in Cabinet discussions from Edgar Faure and Mitterand who, it is alleged, found their motivations in ill-concealed hopes to replace Mendès as Prime Minister.

"Our informants, pro-European, insist that this anti-EDC group in Quai d'Orsay, helped by Sauvagnargues, who saw opportunity to push a few pet projects of his own about Political Community and Security Declarations, was left to do actual drafting. They claim that Mendès is still receiving a painful education and is only now becoming aware of how unacceptable and ill-advised final document really is. Our informants further insist that Mendès can and will accept complete abandonment of his proposals at Brussels if other EDC countries are firm and demonstrate that proposals do change EDC Treaty or would require new Parliamentary

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consideration in other EDC countries. Pro-Europeans persist in their optimism that Mendès will present to French Assembly solution acceptable to EDC countries, and will receive a surprisingly large majority vote for EDC Treaty.

"Mendès has drawn up his proposals for Brussels without any consultation with pro-European leaders outside his Cabinet. In last days of the confrontation he even took specific action forbidding individuals working with him to see pro-European leaders and experts. Results of the confrontation, if accepted, would lose not only votes of pro-EDC Socialists but also of pro-EDC factions in MRP, Radical Socialist and Independent parties. At same time Mendès has no commitment for a favorable vote from Rightist deputies opposed to EDC Treaty. On contrary, they used his pathetic efforts to get their support by making changes in EDC Treaty to help wreck document to be presented at Brussels; then they kept their hands completely free by continuing to oppose publicly Treaty in any form. Number of anti-EDC deputies will vote for EDC Treaty when day for decision arrives. However, they will do so primarily because they cannot afford to be in opposition for domestic political reasons and not because of modifications in EDC Treaty.

"We are advised that Pinay at his request saw Mendès yesterday to inform him that Pinay and his friends would not support changes in Treaty as proposed. Pinay apparently found Mendès deeply discouraged and confused. Mendès is said to have admitted that he now realized that changes he had proposed would not get EDC ratified. Pinay is said to have replied that this was true but that Treaty could be ratified if Mendès would work out a solution at Brussels in framework of present text of Treaty and acceptable to other EDC countries and to US and UK. Pinay said French Assembly would vote such a solution if Treaty were defended vigorously and vote of confidence used as necessary. We are informed that Mollet,

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who has not been consulted by Mendès, shortly will issue a warning statement to effect that new Socialist Party Congress must be called if Brussels meeting should agree on any changes in present text contrary to agreed Socialist conditions. In such an event it would be expected that entire Socialist Party would vote unanimously against such a proposal for German rearmament.

"I believe Mendès has committed a capital and perhaps irretrievable error even in terms of French domestic politics. There remains a possibility that situation might be saved by judicious firmness on part of other governments at Brussels, and by US and UK not deviating from a resolute course. BRUCE."

Another of the telegrams follows:

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. CODED 17. NIACT.

"RPTD INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON 151
HICOG BONN 111
AMEMBASSY ROME 43
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 23
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 29
AMLEGATION LUXEMBOURG 21

"Re Paris Embtel 644.

"1. In view of confused, chauvinistic and destructive nature of proposals submitted by France for Brussels meeting (in connection with which the most charitable construction to be given Mendès' decision would be that he has ignorantly outsmarted himself) and complete uncertainty on outcome, I recommend I be authorized to send following letter on Monday, August 16, to President of EDC Interim Committee:

"BEGIN TEXT

"At the meeting of the Steering Committee of the EDC Interim Committee on June 14, 1954, I informed the Committee that I was authorized to sign at any time on behalf of my Government the proposed Agreement on External Aid between the

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European Defense Community and the United States Government.

"Considering the nature of the proposals put forward for consideration at the proposed meeting of the participants in the European Defense Community at Brussels on August 19, 1954, I must now advise you that my authorization to sign the Agreement on External Aid has been withdrawn until such time as the results of the Brussels meeting are known and have been considered by my Government. END TEXT.

"2. I also suggest you consider making statement at press conference in Washington to the effect that the guarantees offered in the President's statement of April 16, 1954, may also have to be reconsidered after the Brussels meeting.

"3. I further recommend that in connection formal demarche expected Monday (Embtel 645, August 14) Dillon be instructed to inform Mendès-France that we will not enter into any discussion on possible tripartite declaration on security until such time as results of Brussels conference are known and French Government's policy on EDC is definite. BRUCE."

It has rained every day this week and has continued cold enough for open fires.

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